Reports Presented by National Commission for Minorities to Government

1945. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reports presented by National Commission for Minorities to Government since its constitution as a Statutory Commission and whether such reports are placed before the Parliament;

(b) the number of cases of discrimination against minorities received by the Commission and in how many cases, the Commission has taken up for investigation, State-wise; and

(c) whether the Commission has initiated any suo moto investigation relating to discrimination or problems relating to Socio-Economic condition and education of Minorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRI ASLAM SHER KHAN): (a) The National Commission for Minorities has not submitted any Report of its activities since its constitution as a statutory body. The Commission, has, however submitted the 14th Annual Report for the period 1991-92 of the erstwhile Minorities Commission. This Report as well as the Annual Reports of the statutory body are required to be placed before Parliament.

(b) and (c) The Commission has been receiving a large number of representations from both individuals and various organisations listing different kinds of grievances/complaints including socio-economic and educational problems of minorities. From among these cases, it is difficult to categorise and quantify the number of cases of discrimination against minorities without proper verification. The Commission does not have any powers of investigation under the National Commission for Minorities Act. The matters are, however, taken up with the concerned authorities seeking factual reports from them. The Chairman/ Members of the Commission also visit various places for spot studies of problems relating to minorities.

Pending proposals for price fixation of bulk drugs

1946. SHRI H. HANUMAN THAPPA:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the proposals for price fixation of bulk drugs and formulations which are pending with his Ministry;

(b) since when each of the proposals is pending and at what level;

(c) the reasons for this pendency and by when would the prices be fixed;

(d) whether it is fact that Director (PI) and US (DPEA) are misusing their positions and telephoning the executives of private companies for coming for negotiations; and

(c) the steps taken to enquire into their deals?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM LAKHAN SINGH YADAV): (a) to (c) The prices to bulk drugs and formulations under price control are fixed/revised and notified from time to time, in accordance with the provisions of Drug Prices Control Order, 1995. and it is an on going process.

(d) No such information has been received/brought to the notice of this Ministry so far.

(e) Question does not arise.

Increase in Demand for Coconuts

1947. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an increase in demand for coconuts all over the country;

(b) whether the Coconut Development Board has made an assessment of such trends;

(c) if so, its findings thereof;

(d) whether farmers in Andhra Pradesh will be encouraged to raise more coconut plantations: and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Board has not made any survey to assess the trend in the demand of coconuts all over the country. Therefore, such finding are not available.

(d) and (e) The Coconut Development Board is already providing assistance to the small and marginal farmers for expansion of area under coconut in Andhra Pradesh by providing subsidy at the rate of Rs. 6,000 per ha. split in three years.

An area of 3900 ha. is proposed to be covered during the current plan period.

Deaths in the Capital's Beggar Home

1948. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of inmates of the 'Save Kutir' beggars' home in Delhi died due to negligence and lack of medication this year (1995);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to improve the functioning of the beggar homes in the capital?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): (a) According to Government of N.C.T. of Delhi, only one inmate of Reception-cum-Classification Centre, Sewa Kutir, namely Shri Bappi Shankar alias Bappi Sarkar expired on 1st October, 1995. An Inquiry has been conducted by a senior I.A.S. Officer to ascertain whether the inmate had died due to negligence and lack of medication. The report received in this regard is being examined by Social Welfare Department, Government of NCT of Delhi.

(b) Shri Bappi Shankar alias Bappi Sarkar expired on 1st October, 1995. Prior to his death he was taken on 30th September, 1995 to the Poor House Hospital for medical treatment. The Medical Officer on duty referred him to Bara Hindu Rao Hospital. But before he could be taken to Bara Hindu Rao Hospital, he expired on 1st October, 1995.

(c) The Department Social Welfare, Government of NCT of Delhi has issued instruction to the Superintendents of Beggar Homes of the Department to be more vigilant and careful in respect of health aspect of inmates in general and ailing inmates in particular. There is a hospital in the 'Sewa Kutir' complex to cater to the needs of inmates.